

SPECIAL DECLARATION 12: ON THE COCA LEAF

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on January 25, 2017;

We recall the Special Communiqué on Original and Ancestral Coca Leaf, Natural Heritage of Bolivia and Peru, adopted within the framework of the CELAC Summit in Caracas, Venezuela, on December 3, 2011; Special Communiqué on the Traditional Use of Coca Leaf Chewing, adopted at the First Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State and Government Meeting in Santiago, Chile on January 28, 2013, the Special Declaration on the Coca Leaf adopted at the II CELAC Summit in Havana - Cuba, on January 28 and 29 of 2014.

We emphasize that CELAC is a space that recognizes the multicultural character of our peoples, and plurinational of some of our countries, especially of the original communities that promote and recreate the historical memory and ancestral knowledge.

We reaffirm our commitment to Protection of ethnic and cultural diversity and the preservation of cultural and ancestral practices of indigenous peoples within the framework of respect for Human rights and the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples recognized by the United Nations Declaration on the Indigenous Peoples and in accordance with relevant international instruments.

We recognize the traditional use of chewing (Akulliku) of the Coca Leaf as an ancestral cultural manifestation of the peoples of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, based on historical evidence, which must be respected by the international community; and we express our interest in knowing the results of scientific research on the properties of the coca leaf carried out by institutes and universities of international prestige.

We take note of the bilateral agreements in the region regarding the traditional and medicinal use of the coca leaf, in accordance with the international commitments on the matter.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25, 2017.